

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sucker rod coupling comprising:
  - (a) a hollow, cylindrical coupling blank fabricated of hardenable metal, wherein the blank is brought to a Rockwell hardness of at least about 27 HRC;
  - (b) a wear layer on an outer surface of said coupling blank; and
  - (c) fully cold formed rolled threads on an inner surface of said coupling blank.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said wear layer comprises spray metal heat fused to said outer surface.
4. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer has a Rockwell hardness of at least 40 HRC.
5. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer is at least 0.010 inches thick.
6. (Currently Amended) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank is liquid quenched and tempered ~~to a Rockwell hardness of about 27 to 32 HRC.~~
7. (Original) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said wear layer has a surface finish not exceeding 63  $\mu\text{in}$   $R_a$ .

8. (Previously Presented) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said spray metal comprises 76-M-50-S spray metal powder.

9. (Original) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank comprises AISI 8630 or 4130 steel.

10-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The coupling of claim 3 wherein said spray metal comprises a metal powder.

25. (Previously Presented) The coupling of claim 24 wherein said powder is of about 115 to 325 mesh.

26. (Previously Presented) The coupling of claim 1 wherein said coupling blank comprises a low carbon, low alloy steel.

27. (New) The coupling of claim 1 wherein the coupling blank is brought to a Rockwell hardness of about 27 to about 32 HRC.